APPENDIX. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference for the 41st Northeast Stock Assessment Workshop

(approved: March 18, 2005)

SAW/SARC 41
June 6-10, 2005
NEFSC, Woods Hole, MA

A. Summer Flounder - SAW Southern Demersal Working Group

1. Update the summer flounder assessment models (i.e. ADAPT VPA and AGEPRO projection) using the same configurations as those used in the 2004 SAW Southern Demersal Working Group (WG) assessment update.

2. Estimate biological reference points derived by yield and SSB per recruit analysis and by stock-recruitment modeling, following the procedures adopted by the 2002 Working Group on Re-Evaluation of Biological Reference Points for New England Groundfish.

3. Consider the recommendations of the MAFMC Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) 2001 peer review of the summer flounder Overfishing Definition in developing the analyses described in TOR 2. The major recommendations were to explore other proxies (besides F_{max}) to F_{MSY}, to continue stock-recruitment model development as additional stock-recruit estimates become available, and to monitor and utilize new data on the population dynamics of summer flounder (e.g., age, growth, and maturity) as they become available.

4. Review, evaluate and report on the status of the SARC/Working Group research recommendations offered in previous SARC and WG reviewed assessments.

B. Bluefish - ASMFC Technical Committee/Assessment Subcommittee

1. Evaluate adequacy, appropriateness and uncertainty of fishery-dependent and fishery-independent data used in the assessment.
2. Evaluate adequacy and appropriateness of models used to assess the species and to estimate population benchmarks.
3. Evaluate and either update or re-estimate biological reference points as appropriate.
4. Estimate and evaluate stock status (biomass) and fishery status (fishing mortality rate).
    a. Is the stock overfished; is overfishing occurring?
5. Develop recommendations for improving data collection and for future research.

C. Tilefish - SAW Southern Demersal Working Group

1. Characterize the commercial catch including landings and discards. Characterize recreational landings.

2. Estimate fishing mortality and total stock biomass for the current year and characterize the uncertainty of those estimates.

3. Evaluate and either update or re-estimate biological reference points as appropriate.

4. Where appropriate, estimate a constant TAC and/or TAL based on stock status for years following the terminal assessment year.

5. If projections are possible,

    a. provide seven year projections of stock status under various TAC strategies and

    b. evaluate current and projected stock status against existing rebuilding or recovery schedules, as appropriate.

6. Review, evaluate and report on the status of the research recommendations offered in the 1999 Science and Statistical committee reviewed assessment.